1775-1776 Anza Expedition

Pursuing a Dream

Luan Bautista de Anza's father had a dream. He wanted to find an overland route to Alta California beyond the Spanish frontier, but he died in an Apache ambush in 1740 when Anza was three years old. Anza followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Spanish military, eventually becoming a Captain on the frontier at the Tubac Presidio.

Spain had been struggling to secure its outposts in Alta California from Russian and English exploration and colonization. Existing sea routes were dangerous and difficult. Just like his father, Anza requested permission from the Vicerov of New Spain, Antonio Maria Bucareli. to prove a land route to Alta California was possible. Permission was granted.

Following Indian trading and mission travel routes, Anza identified a path in 1774. This allowed an avenue for much needed livestock and supplies. Upon this success, he was granted permission to recruit and lead a group of settlers to Alta California. Spain's goal was to establish the first colony in a place they called el Río San Francisco. Anza's goal was to safely deliver the settlers, thus fulfilling his father's dream.



Above: Ana María Josepha de Soto joined the 1775-76 Anza Expedition with her husband, Juan Francisco Bernal, and their on two conditions: seven children (ages 2-17) they would not Illustration by David Rickman

return and they had Left: Expedition leaving to bring their families. Tubac Presidio on the Spanish Frontier.



sidio on October 23, Anza arrived in 1775, thirty families places like Culiacán had joined Anza in Sinaloa and Hortotaling about 240 casitas in Sonora. Residents heard a ca from this military families put their man who told stories trust in a promise of lush lands and plentiful resources in a man who did not a place far from their desert homeland. reach their destina-Anza invited the men tion, Alta California. to join this expedi-However, it was a tion as paid soldiers

risk these families

were willing to take.

their heritage with a blending of indigenous, European, and Afro-Latino

ancestry. Most of the families did not settlers; men, women. and children. These have many prospects, so when Anza offered an opportufor a better life, from nity, they took it. guarantee they would The settlers, with

Traveling Town

a traveling town

their military escorts and support workers (cowboys, mule packers, and Indian guides) comprised an enormous group of over 300 people and more than 1,000 head of livestock. Led by Anza, the people, their supplies and people encounlivestock resembled tered, covering the

They were diverse in making their way through the desert

Most days started

with mass and the alabado, a hymn o praise, led by Franciscan priest Pedro Font, the expedition chaplain. Not only did Font provide religious leadership he recorded latitude with a quadrant and kept a meticulous journal. Where the tone of Anza's

struggles and suc-

journal was official. Font's was eloquent These two journal document dates supplies issued. had promised. distances traveled places visited, and

Part of the journey's success was due to Anza's ability to forge alliances with a few

of the Indians along cesses of the journey. Without the diaries, the route. Some details of this epic were very generjourney would never ous in their assistance. The Pima and have been known. Chumash provided much needed food. A Quechan group,

Spain intended to

expand their society

by acculturating the

mission life. To Spain,

local Indians into

Viewed as the ben-

eficiaries, Indians

were the required

sions. Many were

Success & Impacts On June 27, 1776, led

by Lt. Moraga, the expedition families arrived in what is now San Francisco. Anza ensured the settlers reached their destination. and Spain successfully established its northernmost colony in Alta California. In the new land, the colonists obtained the better life Anza

The Spanish believed this lifestyle would their new society. In reality, the approach significantly altered the tribal world. Indian populations led by Chief Palma, declined and their helped them cross traditions were disrupted. Ultimately the Colorado River. Spanish colonial-

Living Legacy

of the tribal world

the frontier was full Descendants of the of souls to be saved. expedition live today Family names such as Berryessa, Bernal, Peralta, Moraga, labor that built misand Alviso can be found on streets, forced to accept an towns, counties, and unfamiliar lifestyle.

landmarks through-

out California.

Native people encountered elevate the Indians in throughout the expedition route remain and continue their traditions today Public presentations of Indian lifeways occur in places such as Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center and ism spelled the end Coyote Hills East

> native people are all a living legacy within the population.

as it had existed The 1776 Anza Expedition changed the course of California history. Today, descendants and

Bay Regional Park.

Cover "On the Trail" illustrated by David Rickman.

together. One local Quechan group helped

the Pima, assisted the travelers with food.

Illustrations from left to right: "Llano Grande." Illustrated by Bill Singleton; "Crossing the Colorado." Illustrated by David Rickman; "The Pima." Illustrated by David Rickman

Watermarks by Wade Cox.



the Anza Trail

In 1990, Congress established the Juan Bautista de Anza Left to right: The expedition was like a small National Historic Trail as town with people and livestock all traveling a part of the National Trails System. The 1200the expedition members successfully cross the mile trail in the United Colorado River. Many Indian groups such as States traverses from Nogales, AZ to San Francisco, CA. There is another 600 miles of the historic corridor in Mexico. The trail traces the route of the 1775-1776 Anza Expedition as closely as possible. Portions of the trail can be explored by car, foot,

> Suite 700 Oakland, CA 94607-4807 (510) 817-1438 www.nps.gov/juba

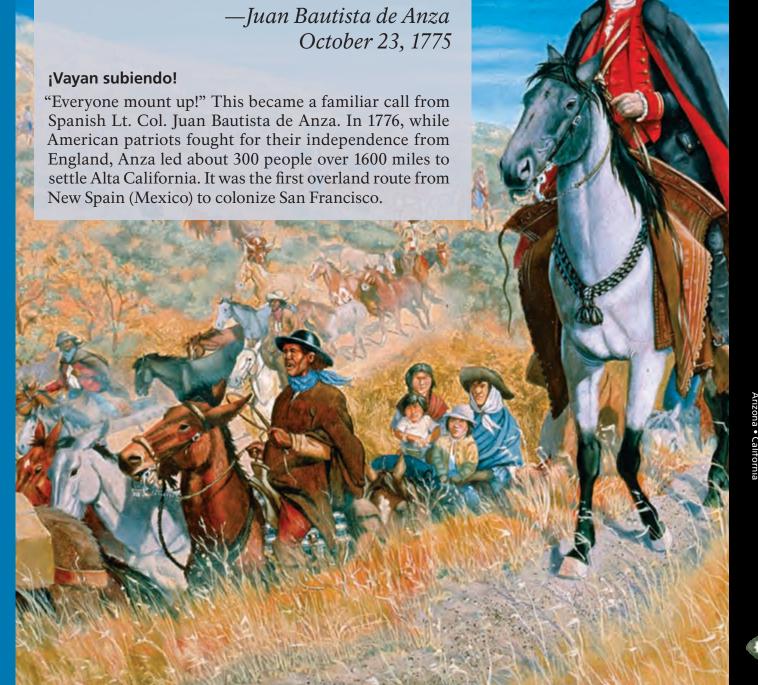
New Spain (Mexico) to colonize San Francisco.

"Mass having been chanted...all its mem-

bers being present...at eleven today the

march was begun toward the north."

horse, bicycle, or train. More information luan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail 1111 Jackson Street





Anza Trail San Francisco "The site is very good, with fine lands, and plentiful water from the river which runs through this valley...In the range there is a great abundance of oaks, live oaks, and pines, and consequently plenty of pinenuts and acorns, for which reason the "Indeed, although in my travels mission raises large numbers of hogs." Monterev I saw very good sites and - Father Font, March 6, 1776 beautiful country, I saw none which pleased me so much as Presidio of Monterey this. And I think that if it could be well settled like Europe there would not be anything more beautiful in all the world." Mission San Antonio - Father Font, March 28, 1776 **LEGEND** Historic/Auto Route Interpretive Sites Mission San Luis Obispo Expedition Points of Interest 1775–76 Historic Corridor NOTE: Map provides general trail and O'odham Native Language Group route information. For detailed trail

Historic Sites Along the Anza Trail Route

"...it was decided in Mexico to make this second expedition and journey, the better to explore the country, and especially to conduct thirty families of married soldiers to the port of Monterey, in order by means of them to settle and hold the famous port of San Francisco.

Father Pedro Font was the religious leader.

The National Park Service administers the I trail through partnership with other federal, state, county, and municipal parks and agencies, local volunteer groups, non-profit organizations, and private landowners. If an area belonging to a private landowner is not open to visitors, permission must be obtained to enter their property.

The auto route approximates the areas where the expedition traveled. Several communities and parks offer recreational opportunities for walking, hiking, horse riding, and bicycling. A variety of historic sites provide experiences related to the Spanish Colonial era. Riders of Amtrak can also follow a section of the trail from Los Angeles to Oakland on the Coast Starlight. At certain times of the year, Trails & Rails guides make presentations on board.

Two signs appear along the roadways:



Historic Site 4202 Alhambra Ave. Martinez, CA

John Muir National

(925) 228-8860 roadway is within the corri dor used by the expedition. www.nps.gov/jomu

> **B** Presidio of San Francisco 50 Moraga Ave. San Francisco,CA (415) 561-4323 www.nps.gov/prsf www.presidio.gov

Anza Trail Exhibit D Tubac Presidio State Historic Park Burruel Street at Presidio Drive Tubac, AZ (520) 398-2252 azstateparks.com

> **E** Tumacácori NHP 1891 E. Frontage Rd Tumacácori, AZ (520) 398-2341 www.nps.gov/tuma

> > Anza Trailhead 1904 Nogales Courthouse

"About three leagues from here there is an edifice of the ancient Indians, and I decided to go see it for the purpose of making an observation of its latitude..."

— Lt. Col. Anza, October 31, 1775

"In the night the wife of a soldier gave birth to a fine boy, but...the woman died in childbed early in the morning. Next day in the afternoon she was taken for burial to the mission of San Xavier del Bac, and on the 25th in the morning she was buried by Father Garcés..."

—Father Font, October 23, 1775

"After eleven o'clock in the morning an order was given to load up. More than two hours were spent in this business, because with so many people there was much delay, and it was no small labor to raise the camp..."

...they [Quechan or Yuma] invited all members of the expedition to eat, giving them in abundance beans, calabashes, maize, wheat and other grains which are used by them, and so many watermelons that we estimated that there must have been more than three thousand."

— Lt. Col. Anza, November 28, 1775

Father Font, October 2, 1775

Sinaloa De Leyva

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument

Mission San Xavier del Ba

San Ignacio de la Canoa

MEXICO MAP

ohono O'odham

Tubac Presidio

Anza Trailhead Room

Mission San Xavier del Bac

San Miguel de Horcasitas

San Ignacio de la Canoa

Magdalena De Kino

State Historic Park

Culiacán Rosales

www.nps.gov/juba

Tumacácori

Historical Park

National

information visit www.nps.gov/juba.

SOURCE: NPS, ESRI 2006

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—Font, remarks opening his journal

Quotations are from the only existing journal written about the expeditions. Lt. Col. Juan Bautista de Anza was the military leader and **Auto Route**

ROUTE

These signs indicate the roadway deviates from the historic corridor, but provides for a continu-

ous driving route.

C Anza-Borrego **Desert State Park**

200 Palm Canyon Dr. Borrego Springs,CA (760) 767-4205 www.parks.ca.gov

21 E. Court Street Nogales, AZ (520) 287-5710 www.nps.gov/juba

Yuma Crossin

Anza-Borrego Desert

Linares] happily gave birth to a boy...which makes three who have been born between the presidio of Tubac and this place...These and three others who were born before reaching San Miguel de Horcasitas make a total of eight, all while on the march..."

...she [Gertrudis Rivas, wife of Ignacio

—Lt. Col. Anza, December 24, 1775